## Teaching Philosophy Samuel Acosta

As an educator that is mainly focused on teaching individual learners, it is my job to ensure that 2 students never have identical lessons, as no 2 students are exactly the same. As I teach on a weekly basis, every student should experience an enriching, ever-growing lesson each time they are learning from me. Even as a teacher, I am always learning and that makes each of my lessons a collaborative effort. As my students are learning from me, I am learning from them, which will optimize the end-goal on a semester, yearly, or full journey perspective. We will always have something to strive toward, meaning goals will be set and consistently revisited to remind us why we are doing what we're doing. Awards and accolades will never be the main focus, but rather the student's pride in what they've done and the growth they've experienced.

More than anything, my goal is to make each student feel safe and welcomed with me. Even if the space I'm teaching in changes, I will always strive to make that space a comfortable one for every kind of student I have no matter their race, gender, or any other identifier. My job as an educator is not to add stress or judgement, but offer a space to thrive and grow into the exceptional humans and musicians they are destined to become. If there is ever a discrepancy in my lessons or the student does not understand what is expected of them, I will from the beginning create a space where they can ask questions or express concern with the trajectory of their education. As somebody they are learning from, I in turn will also be learning from them.